

Message Text

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16

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 INRE-00 L-03 COA-02 ACDA-19

COME-00 INT-08 OST-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 CG-00 GAC-01 PM-09 OIC-04

RSR-01 /108 W

----- 089741

P R 030500 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6495

INFO NSF WASHDC

DET DELTA NAVSUPFORANTARCTICA CHRISTCHURCH

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 858

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TPHY, TGEN, NZ, OSCI, XV

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND SUPPORT FOR US ANTARCTIC PROGRAM

REF: STATE 58946

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING DIP NOTE FROM MFA
DATED APRIL 3: QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WISHES TO ASSURE THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT
THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES GREATLY VALUE THE PROGRAMME
OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RECENT
YEARS. IT IS IN THIS LIGHT THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL
AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THE SUPPORT REQUESTED
FOR THE UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAMME FOR 1974. IT IS
SUGGESTED THAT NEW ZEALAND MIGHT CONTRIBUTE THE
FOLLOWING: (1) A TOTAL OF 10 RNZAF C-130 FLIGHTS FROM
CHRISTCHURCH TO ANTARCTICA BETWEEN THE PERIOD 15 NOVEMBER
1973 AND 1 JANUARY 1974. IT IS REGRETTED THAT
TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS DO NOT MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO
EXPAND THIS FIGURE. (2) THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO TEAMS OF
TWO RNZAF HELICOPTER COPILOTS TO THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT SQUADRON SIX, FOR A
PERIOD OF ONE MONTH. IN ADDITION, IT IS PROPOSED THAT
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ONE CREWMAN SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN EACH OF THE TEAMS. THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED TO RELEASE TWO RNZAF C-130 COPILOTS, FOR ASSIGNMENTS OF ONE MONTH EACH, TO FLY WITH THE UNITED STATES LC-130 AIRCRAFT SQUADRON IN THE ANTARCTIC OPERATIONS DURING THE 1974 SEASON. (3) THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS SUPPORT FOR CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE AVAILABLE: (A) 1 MOBILE AIR MOVEMENT TEAM CONSISTING OF 1 OFFICER, 2 SENIOR NCO'S AND 3 AIRMEN. THIS TEAM WHICH IS SPECIALIZED IN THE PLANNING OF AIRCRAFT LOADING WOULD BE BASED AT HAREWOOD FOR FOUR TO SIX WEEKS OVER A PERIOD TO BE AGREED UPON. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE NOTED IN THIS LATTER RESPECT THAT IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE MOBILE AIR MOVEMENT TEAM AVAILABLE DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER; (B) ONE NCO AND FOUR CARGO HANDLERS FOR THE CHRISTCHURCH AIR CARGO YARD FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1973; AND (C) ONE OFFICER, 3 SENIOR NCO'S AND 15 CARGO HANDLERS FOR DUTY AT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S MCMURDO AIR CARGO YARD FROM OCTOBER 1973 TO FEBRUARY 1974. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS UNIT COULD ALSO HANDLE LOAD PLANNING.

2. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS NOTED THE DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALSO OBTAINING SUPPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND IN SUCH AREAS AS AIRCRAFT SERVICING AND REPAIR, FLIGHT FOLLOWING AND WEATHER AND COMMUNICATIONS. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN EXAMINED SYMPATHETICALLY BY THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WHO ARE KEEN TO ASSIST WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IT IS CONSIDERED THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THIS TOPIC WOULD BE PROFITABLE. IT IS PROPOSED, THEREFORE, THAT THE DATES OF 9 AND 10 APRIL ALREADY SUGGESTED FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NEW ZEALAND BE CONFIRMED. THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INCLUDING THE AIRFORCE AND ARMY, THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE VENUE SUGGESTED FOR THE CONSULTATIONS IS THE DSIR CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TH FLOOR CUBEWELL HOUSE, KENT TERRACE, WELLINGTON, AND THE TIME UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE FIRST MEETING 9:30 AM ON 9 APRIL.

3. WITH REGARD TO AIRCRAFT REPAIR AND SERVICING IT IS CONSIDERED THAT IN VIEW OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE AND COMMERCIAL AVIATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN NEW ZEALAND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. BEFORE FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE MORE DETAILS OF THE LIKELY REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

4. THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES ARE PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE A FLIGHT FOLLOWING SERVICE FROM THE AUCKLAND OCEANIC CENTRE TO A DISTANCE OF 60 DEGREES SOUTH.

5. WITH REGARD TO METEOROLOGY THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A BRIEFING DOCUMENTARY SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED FROM UNITED STATES FACILITIES AT MCMURDO SOUND.

6. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE INDICATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND'S THINKING WILL ASSIST THE UNITED STATES PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS. A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE TECHNICAL ISSUES, AS IS ENVISAGED, WILL GREATLY ASSIST IN CLARIFYING THE CONTRIBUTION NEW ZEALAND WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IN THESE AND OTHER AREAS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE EMBASSY IF TIME PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND FOR CONSULTATIONS IS ACCEPTABLE AND NAMES AND ARRIVAL TIME OF US DELEGATION. WOOD

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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